

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 87

By Freeman

A RESOLUTION to celebrate March 18, 2023, as "Tennessee Tree Day."

WHEREAS, Tennessee is the most biologically diverse inland state in these United States; and

WHEREAS, Tennessee is a state of robust forest cover and tree canopy, which provide myriad benefits to Tennessee's economy, community, and quality of life; and

WHEREAS, in certain areas, ongoing human development, natural disasters, and other causes are responsible for the loss of trees and forest cover every year; and

WHEREAS, there is a perpetual need to encourage Tennesseans within their communities to grow our State's tree canopy; and

WHEREAS, the Tennessee Environmental Council (TEC), a nonprofit organization founded in 1970, has been organizing large-scale tree planting events annually since 2007, resulting in nearly 822,000 native trees being planted, with new trees in all ninety-five counties; and

WHEREAS, over 100,000 Tennessee volunteers have participated in these events since 2007, and the public demand for planting trees is strong year after year; and

WHEREAS, partnerships and cooperation with the Tennessee Department of Agriculture-Division of Forestry, UT Extension Institute of Agriculture, local storm water agencies, rural electric cooperatives, public works departments, and dozens of local community organizations and agencies are integral to the success of TEC's statewide tree-planting efforts; and

WHEREAS, the majority of the native trees planted in these events are grown at the Tennessee Division of Forestry's East Tennessee Nursery in Delano; and

WHEREAS, in 2023, the Tennessee Environmental Council will engage thousands of volunteer participants in planting 100,000 native trees across all ninety-five counties on March 18th; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRTEENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we join with the Tennessee Environmental Council in its celebration of Saturday, March 18, 2023, as "Tennessee Tree Day," during which day thousands of Tennesseans will participate in tree-planting events in their communities.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we honor and commend the Tennessee Environmental Council's service as the lead organization orchestrating these events and its pledge to continue offering tree seedlings, educational information, and coordination as community support, resources, and capacity allow.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy and upon proper request made to the appropriate clerk, the language appearing immediately following the State seal appear without House or Senate designation.